

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. No claims have been amended, canceled or added.

Claims 22 and 22 are allowed. Claims 1, 16 and 18-20 are rejected. Claims 2-15 and 17 are objected to. Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP Patent No. 030176 to Stansfield, et al. (hereinafter "Stansfield"). Examiner has rejected claims 16 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stansfield in view of alleged knowledge in the art.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 21 and 22. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-15 and 17 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In this Response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 16, 18, 19 and 20 and cancelled claim 17 without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-16 and 18-22 are currently pending.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 18 and 20 to include the limitations similar to those included in allowed claim 21. Stansfield discloses only that a high resolution binary representation of a screened representation is processed to convert to low resolution grey scale by stepping a window across the binary representation. Stansfield is silent about and does not teach or suggest converting dots of said halftone image into parallel lines of an intermediate image as recited in independent claims 1, 16, 18, 19 and 20, as amended.

Applicant has amended independent claims 16 and 19 to include the limitations of dependent claim 17, which was objected to by the Examiner for depending from a rejected independent claim.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and associated dependent claims 2-11 and 14-15, and independent claim 16, 18, 19 and 20 are in a condition of allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, the present and amended claims should be found to be in condition for allowance.

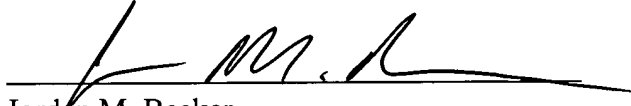
If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jordan M. Becker at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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